

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for a belt-type conveyor, comprising:
  - a rotatable shaft;
- 5 a drive member mounted on the shaft for transmitting force between the shaft and a conveying belt; and,
  - a retaining ring mounted on the shaft adjacent to the drive member, the retaining ring having a resilient body terminating at first and second ends, the first and second ends spaced by a gap, the body capable of flexing such that the shaft fits through the gap when the ring is placed over the shaft, the first and second ends having cooperating engaging members capable of locking together when the ring is disposed over the shaft.
- 10
- 15
2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the body further comprises a plurality of arms.
- 20 3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the arms are convex-shaped.
- 25
4. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the drive member is a sprocket.
5. The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the engaging members comprise cooperating teeth.
- 30 6. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the arms are disposed such that adjacent arms are substantially

perpendicular to one another.

7. The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein adjacent arms are connected by arcuate sections.

5

8. The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the arcuate sections have a thickness that is smaller than the thickness of the arms.

10 9. An apparatus for a belt-type conveyor, comprising:  
a rotatable shaft;

a sprocket mounted on the shaft for transmitting force between the shaft and a conveying belt; and,

15 a retaining ring mounted on the shaft adjacent to the sprocket, the retaining ring having a resilient body terminating at first and second ends, the body comprising a plurality of convex-shaped arms, the body capable of flexing such that the ring fits over the shaft, the first and second ends having cooperating 20 engaging members capable of locking together when the ring is disposed over the shaft.

10. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the engaging members comprise teeth.

25

11. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the arms are disposed such that adjacent arms are disposed substantially perpendicular to each other.

30 12. The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein adjacent arms

- are connected by an arcuate section.
13. The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the arcuate section has a thickness that is smaller than the thickness of the arms.
- 5 14. An apparatus for a belt-type conveyor, comprising:
- 10 a rotatable shaft;
- 15 a drive member mounted on the shaft for transmitting force between the shaft and a conveying belt; and,
- 20 the drive member, the retaining ring having a resilient body with a plurality of convex-shaped arms having a first thickness, the plurality of arms being disposed in an alternating fashion such that adjacent arms are substantially perpendicular to each other, the body terminating in first and second ends spaced by a gap, the plurality of arms being connected by arcuate sections having a second thickness that is smaller than the first thickness of the plurality of arms, the body capable of flexing such that the ring fits over the shaft, the first and second ends having cooperating engaging members capable of locking together when the ring is disposed over the shaft.
- 25 15. The apparatus of Claim 14, wherein the drive member is a sprocket.
- 30 16. An apparatus for a belt-type conveyor, comprising:

a rotatable shaft;  
means for transmitting force between the shaft and  
a conveying belt; and,  
a retaining ring mounted on the shaft adjacent to  
5 the transmitting means, the retaining ring having a  
resilient body terminating at first and second ends  
spaced by a gap, the body capable of flexing such that  
the ring fits over the shaft, the first and second ends  
having cooperating engaging members capable of locking  
10 together when the ring is disposed over the shaft.

17. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the body further  
comprises a plurality of arms.  
15 18. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the arms are  
convex-shaped.  
19. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the engaging  
members comprise teeth.  
20 20. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the arms are  
disposed such that adjacent arms are disposed  
perpendicular to each other.  
25 21. The apparatus of Claim 20, wherein adjacent arms  
are connected by an arcuate section.  
22. The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein the arcuate  
section has a thickness that is smaller than the  
30 thickness of the arms.